GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:543
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2016
TV Channels by Spiritual Organisation
Gawali (Patil) Ms. Bhavana

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the name of companies along with spiritual organisations who have been given permission to operate television channels in the country as on date;

(b) whether complaints have been received regarding involvement of some television channels in criminal activities like extortion;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting grants permission under two categories i.e. "Non-News & Current Affairs TV Channels" and "News & Current Affairs TV channels" in accordance with the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking/ Downlinking of Satellite TV channels. Details of Private Satellite TV Channels permitted to various Companies is available on Ministry's website i.e. www.mib.nic.in. As on 31.01.2016, Ministry has permitted 857 TV Channels out of which 399 Channels are under News & Current Affairs category and 458 Channels are under Non-news and Current Affairs category.

(b) to(e): The companies granted permission for running private satellite TV Channels are bound by the provisions of the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines as well as terms of permission, which also include security related conditions. These companies are at the same time required to comply with the law of the land. Whenever such instances are brought to the notice of this Ministry where the TV channel companies are indulging in criminal activities, appropriate action is taken as per law in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs and as per the provisions of Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines.
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